

BETHPAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SEPTA MEETING
February 4, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Christine Bergin at 7:22.
Minutes approved by Gina McGovern and Bernadette Zirkel.

CHALLENGE DAY at BHS

- Event held at BHS where select 10th graders, teachers, administration and staff focus on their emotions, accept each one's differences while also understanding how they are alike in many ways. The goal of *Challenge Day* is for participants to feel safe and celebrated in the world in which they live. SEPTA sees a tremendous benefit in this program for all students. It also serves as a great opportunity for other students to gain greater empathy for students with special needs.
- Emily Banes, Senior at BHS, did an excellent job sharing with SEPTA her experience at *Challenge Day*. She spoke of how *Challenge Day* was a great experience where students were able to openly share personal experiences, feelings while building new friendships.
- Planned activities served as an eye opening experience as the activities allowed students to see how they are alike, share similar challenges and could reach out to one another for help and compassion.
- *Challenge Day* brought the participants closer together and brought greater acceptance and empathy of one another's differences.
- This year all 10th graders will participate in the *Challenge Day* program.
- Given the benefits of *Challenge Day*, SEPTA offered a donation of \$250 which was approved by SEPTA members.

BUDGET/TREASURER REPORT

- Our beginning balance was \$5,217.19, ending balance is \$5,493.48
- Approval of budget by Karen Fikar and Mercedes O'Brien

MEMEBERSHIP

- Congratulations to SEPTA!
- Goal of 600 members met and exceeded at 604!

CORRESPONDENCE

None to report

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Christine provided update on approved referendum.
- All improvements going on in schools over the summer will not disrupt classes and other planned activities.
- Budget cuts were discussed.

PTA Council Meeting

Topics discussed

- Jackie LaRose provided an update on Ed Mangano inauguration at the BHS.
- TGIF booked for JFK. 300 students signed up so far.
- State Assessment dates moved from Jan to Apr./May
- Reading to achieve program had a great turnout.
- \$250 returned to H.S. from Halloween Party

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Nominating Committee is needed. Volunteers came forward at meeting.
 - VP and Membership Rep., Michele Morano as well as Treasurer, Janet Tancora are retiring.
- Winter Wonderland was a success, 100 students attended.
- Coty Center presentation to discuss sexuality in the adolescence is rescheduled for Wed. March 10th at 7:30 due to budget meeting.
- Così social get together was very successful. Plan is to schedule another one for March or April.
- Mother's Day Sale scheduled for May 7, 2010. SEPTA is looking for volunteers for set up in the morning and selling during lunch periods.
- Volunteers are needed for game night which is scheduled for Friday, April 9th.
 - SEPTA will look into 21st century point for student volunteers.

UPDATE BY PPS: Patricia Hantzidiamantis - Executive Director and Monica Manzi - Director

- The presentation scheduled for the evening by the DaVinci Educational Consulting group was postponed. It is to be rescheduled.
- Rick Lavoie, well know author, speaker and expert on special education and the child of with special needs is confirmed to speak at Bethpage on March 19, 2010.
 - There will be two special presentations: one for teachers, staff and administration another at 1:00 for parents at the BHS Little Theatre on *"It's So Hard to Be Your Friend."*
- Mrs. Hantzidiamantis spoke of therapy and service assistance dogs and their wonderful use with children and reading.
- All phonic ears installed in special ed. classes and in all elementary kdg. and first grade classrooms.
- Life Skill students working at TGIF Erga Bakery, Old Navy post office diner, supermarkets and food banks.
- In the works at Farmingdale Elementary School are true ABA classes and Autism ambassadors with 4th and 5th graders.
 - 4th and 5th grade kids with good character are trained for 6 weeks and work with 1, 2, 3 graders w/autism. Wonderful response from autistic students. Potential 21st Century activity.
- 3 self-contained classes scheduled for next year at CBS.
- Monica Manzi provided an update on professional development with spec. ed. teachers and reg. ed. teachers. She spent one on one time with all H.S. teachers. She reviewed all IEPs and provided a "101" IEP course so teachers can get a clearer understanding of each part of the IEP and how it describes a student both academically and socially. She spoke to teachers on how to address the Regents with special ed. students
- Tricia and Monica Working toward a paradigm of change, and gaining trust of the staff.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Michele Morano and Diane Russo at 8:45pm.

